advertise clerical posts for different regions on different dates but conduct examination on the same day ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor ; and

(c) whether Government propose to change this policy and conduct examinations on different dates so as to allow the candidates to appear in as many regions as possible ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) : (a) and (b) In order to check the migration of candidates from one State to another, minimise requests for transfer after appointment and with a view to reduce wastages due to selection of the same candidate by more than one Banking Service Recruitment Board, some of the adjacent Banking Service Recruitment Boards adopt with mutual consent, a common date for clerical examinations.

(c) No, Sir.

Foreign collaboration in industries

1823. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) how many foreign collaborations with foreign equity are at present existing in India :

(b) of these how many have positive foreign exchange earnings for the country ; and

(c) how many foreign collaborations are losing foreign exchange ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) : (a) The total foreign collaboration approvals issued during the period 1985 to 1989 are as under :—

	Total	Financial
1985 . . .	1024	238
1986 . . .	957	240
1987 . . .	853	242
1988 . . .	926	282
1989 . .	605	194

(b) and (c) The data of actual foreign exchange earnings in respect of foreign collaborations approved in previous years are not compiled by Ministry of Finance. However, many of the foreign collaboration proposals are for import substitution and acquisition of technology which is not available indigenously.

Shifting of Tea Board Headquarters to Assam

1824. SHRI BHADRESWAR BUROGOHAIN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a demand from the Assam Government as well as from the people of Assam to shift the Tea Board Headquarters to Assam ; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by the Central Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Tea is a major traditional export commodity from India. Calcutta, being one of the major Indian ports, has remained the centre of export activities for a long time. Headquarters of a number of exporting and producing firms are located at Calcutta. Moreover, most

of the tea buying for overseas markets is done at Calcutta auctions. Thus, due to the strategic position of Calcutta and other infra-structural facilities available there, it has not been found possible to shift the headquarters of the Tea Board from Calcutta to Guwahati (Assam).

Representation received from West Bengal Central Cooperative Land Development Banks Limited Employees Association

1825. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received representations from the West Bengal Central Cooperative Land Development Banks Limited Employees Association urging for bringing the land development banks under the purview of Banking Companies Regulation Act ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the employees of these Banks are not receiving their salaries for the last couple of months ;

(c) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to take in the matter ; and

(d) what other steps Government are taking to protect these banks from being liquidated ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) : (a) to (d) Govern ment have received certain representations including that from the West Bengal Central Cooperative Land Development Banks Ltd., Employees Association, for bringing the Land Development Banks under the purview of Banking Companies Regulation Act. In this connection, it may be stated that Land Development Banks (LDBs) are mainly engaged in dispensation of term credit for investment in agricultural sector. By the nature of their constitution and set up, they are not to do all types of banking business including acceptance of deposits repayable on demand. However, as per existing scheme, LDBs are allowed to accept deposits for period not less than one year and exceeding two years. In view of the above it has not been found possible to declare the LDBs as Banking Companies under Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

As per report received from the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) the salary structure of West Bengal Central Cooperative Land Development Bank (WSCCLDB) is stated to be controlled by a bipartite agreement, last review being made in 1988 and is again to be reviewed after a gap of 5 years since the last review. It has been further reported by NABARD that except two Primary Land Development Banks (PLDBs), no other PLDB/ Unit of Central Land Development Bank/WBCCLDB was considered for liquidation.

Average rate of recovery of rural loans

1826. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the percentage of bad debts and the rate of recovery of rural loans ;

(b) what are the reasons for the low recovery of such loans ;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government's recent decision to waive off recovery of loans upto Rs. 10,000/- has exacerbated the situation, if so, upto what extent ; and

(d) what steps are proposed to be taken to rectify the situation ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) : (a) As per data available from Reserve